

Concentric Tube Microplate Autosample Interface

Abstract

In accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the invention, a system for obtaining a fluidic sample from a container is presented. The container defines a volume for holding the sample, the volume being closed by a seal. An outer tube has a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end shaped to permit piercing the seal. An inner tube has an end region axially movable within the outer tube between a piercing position, wherein an end of the inner tube in the end region is retracted from the proximal end of the outer tube, and a transmission position, wherein the end of the inner tube extends axially beyond the proximal end of the outer tube. The outer tube and the inner tube form a tube assembly. At least one of the tube assembly and the container can be moved to cause the outer tube to pierce the seal and, after the seal is pierced, the inner tube can be used in the transmission position to permit fluid transfer with respect to the volume.